



BENEFITS OF TREES

Trees are the largest plants for our landscapes and provide the greatest benefits. They add permanent structure to the design and can become the ceilings and walls of our outdoor living spaces.

Select trees for the function you want, whether it is providing cooling shade, screening for privacy, or enhancing views. Many offer seasonal interest, such as seedpods, flowers, or fall color.

As an added benefit, trees can help decrease heating and cooling costs for your home. Locate deciduous trees to shade the east, south and west-facing exposures of your home during the summer. This will allow sunlight into the home during the winter when branches are bare of leaves.

Trees are a tremendous benefit to the environment. They provide food and shelter for wildlife, cool our cities, and absorb greenhouse gasses.



Recommended Resources

- *Landscape Plants for the Arizona Desert*
- *Landscape Watering by the Numbers*
- *Xeriscape: Landscaping with Style in the AZ Desert*

Available at your local nursery
Call for a copy at 480-644-3306, or visit
www.mesaaz.gov/conservation

- *Plant Selection and Selecting Your Plants*
- *Planting Guidelines: Container Trees and Shrubs*
- *Pruning Deciduous Shade Trees*
- *How to Hire a Tree Expert*

University of Arizona Cooperative Extension Publications
Call for copies at 602-827-8200, press 1, or visit
<http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/>

- *Arizona Community Tree Council*

Encourages and facilitates tree planting and care in Arizona. Visit <http://aztrees.org/>

Arbor Day Celebration Partners 2011

The City of Mesa

Mesa Landscape Nurseries (offering discounts for Arbor Day!)

- A&P Nurseries (2 locations)
- Harper's Nursery
- Moon Valley Nursery
- Summer Winds Nursery
- Treeland Nursery




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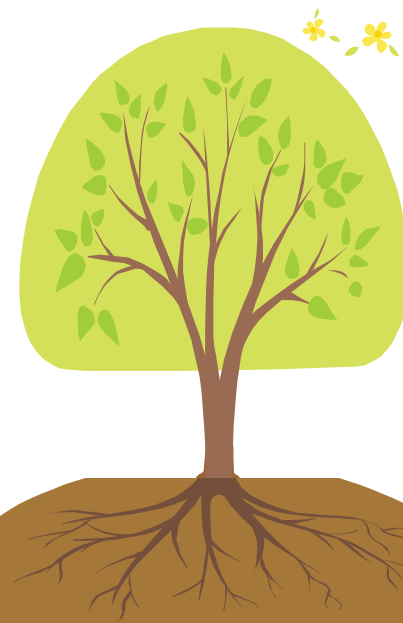
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the City of Mesa for the
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480-644-3306

Printed on recycled paper, of course!



TREE PLANTING and TREE CARE GUIDE



*The best time to plant a tree was
twenty years ago;
The next best time is now!*



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SELECTION, PLANTING, STAKING AND CARE

Tree Selection

Selecting the right tree is important because of the impact it has on the landscape and the length of time required to reach maturity. When considering placement, be sure the mature tree will fit safely, without interfering with overhead power lines, underground utilities, buildings, and pedestrian traffic.

Choosing trees that are native to the Arizona desert, or that are very well adapted to our climate and conditions, greatly increases success. A tremendous selection is available to meet almost any situation. See the back panel for a recommended tree selection guide.

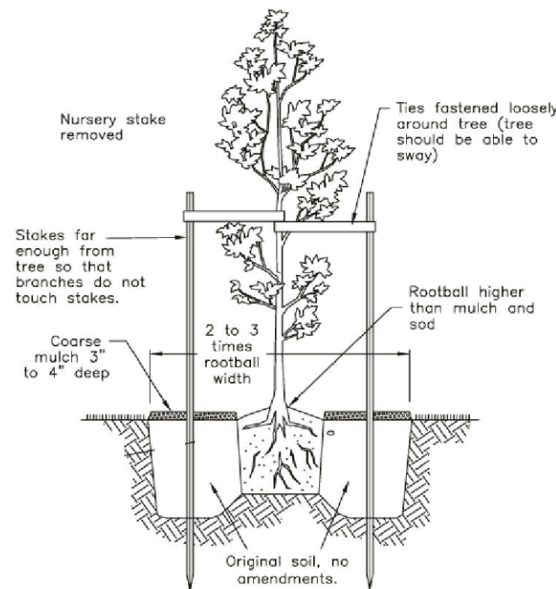
Tree Planting

Most trees have a shallow spreading root system with a few anchor roots. University research shows that tree roots grow within the top two feet of the soil and spread well beyond the drip line of the tree.

Follow these steps when planting a tree:

- Till or loosen the soil in the planting site 3-4 times the diameter of the root ball but not deeper than the root ball.
- Dig the planting hole twice as wide but not quite as deep as the root ball.
- Gently slide the root ball out of the container, handling the plant by the root ball and not the trunk.
- If roots are matted or circling, make 4-5 cuts lengthwise, 1-inch deep with a sharp knife, or shave the matted roots off the edge.

- Place the tree carefully into the planting hole making sure the top of the root ball is a little bit above the soil grade.
- Backfill with unamended soil. Firm soil, but do not compact.
- Water the area thoroughly, then apply 2-4 inches of organic mulch on top of the soil surface. Keep mulch away from the tree trunk.



Tree Staking

Always remove the stakes which were placed on the tree at the nursery. These are usually located up against the trunk or are placed into the root ball of the tree.

Stake your tree only if absolutely necessary. Staking can do more harm than good to a young tree. Try to purchase a tree at the nursery that has a well-developed trunk and will not need staking.

If staking is necessary, use two stakes placed outside of the root ball. Place non-abrasive ties loosely around the trunk about six inches above the location on the trunk that will hold the tree in an upright position. Check the ties frequently and remove as soon as possible. When a tree is allowed to bend and move in the wind, the trunk will develop greater strength.

Tree Care

Watering: Trees should be watered to wet the entire root zone and to get good, deep penetration into the soil. During the first year, the tree may need to be watered as often as once every 5-7 days. Once established, water needs should be less frequent. The exact schedule will depend on the kind of tree, type of soil and the time of year. Within a year, water applications should be located near the drip line of the tree, not close to the trunk. See the back panel for a recommended Arizona watering guide.

Fertilizing: Newly planted trees need no fertilizer. A small amount of fertilizer can be applied starting the second year to non-natives.

Pruning: Do not prune a newly planted tree during the first year, except to remove dead or badly damaged branches. Lower branches help the tree develop strength and increase trunk diameter. Also, pruning is an art and a science and it is important to make proper pruning cuts. You may want to hire a tree expert, such as a Certified Arborist, to help care for your trees. See the back panel for recommended guides on pruning shade trees and for selecting a tree care expert.